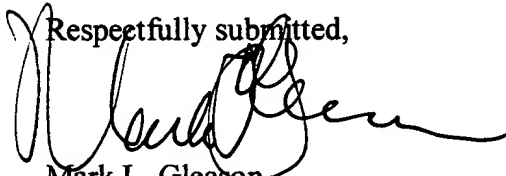


**REQUEST FOR TIME EXTENSION**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), Applicants petition for an extension of time of two in which to respond to the Office Action dated July 5, 2001. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to deduct the extension fee, and any additional fees that may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 for any reason relating to this paper, from Howrey Simon Arnold & White Deposit Account No. 01-2508/10872.0177.DVUS00.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark L. Gleason  
Reg. No. 39,998  
Attorney for Applicant

HOWREY SIMON ARNOLD & WHITE, LLP  
P.O. Box 4433  
Houston, Texas 77210-4433

Date:

10/5/01